

copy 105000 541,086

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 July 2004 (22.07.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/060867 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C07D**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/041742
- (22) International Filing Date:
31 December 2003 (31.12.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/438,059 2 January 2003 (02.01.2003) US
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- (81) Designated States (national): CA, CN, DE, GB, JP, MX, US.
- (84) Designated States (regional): European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR).
- Published:
— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: SECRETED PROTEIN FACTOR AND CELL MEMBRANE-BOUND SPLICE VARIANT

(57) Abstract: A novel mammalian protein system is disclosed. This system comprises a secreted protein factor and its related membrane-bound splice variant. These novel proteins have no homology to any known protein or class or protein, yet are ubiquitously expressed in nearly all tissue types. Also disclosed are novel nucleic acids that encode the novel polypeptides of the invention. The protein system was discovered in purified populations of murine hematopoietic stem cells. The cDNAs of the invention were cloned from a murine hematopoietic lineage negative (Lin) library.

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